Coconut Mite Attack in Karnataka

31. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that coconut trees are affected in Karnataka because of coconut mite attack;

(b) if so, whether Karnataka Government had sought Central assistance to provide necessary treatment to the affected coconut trees;

(c) the amount of Central assistance sought for;

(d) the estimated less of crop; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Govt. of Karnataka has sought assistance of Rs. 80.60 crores for a period of 5 years starting from 1999-2000.

(d) The crop loss is estimated to be around 30% amounting to Rs. 65.00 crores.

(e) (i) The proposal of Government of Karnataka for financial assistance is under consideration of Government of India;

(ii) The State Department of Horticulture with the assistance of Zila Panchayat Staff have conducted survey of affected coconut palms and estimated the crop loss;

(iii) Awareness has been created through mass-media and by distributing leaflets/pamphlets among the coconut growers on the coconut mite infestation and its control measures;

(iv) The coconut growers have been trained and demonstrations held regarding chemical control methods of coconut mite;

(v) The State Department of Horticulture is planning to

take up control of coconut mite infestation on campaign basis and on war footing by constituting Plant Protection Squads; and

(vi) The State Government has already released Rs. 2.44 crores under the Scheme 'Integrated Control of Pests and Diseases in Horticulture/Crops' for purchase of Plant Protection chemicals exclusively for control of coconut mite.

Rehabilitation of Villages in Pithauragarh and Rudraprayag Districts

†32. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 272 given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th December, 1998 and state:

(a) whether 1729 families of 32 villages of the Pithauragarh district have to be rehabilitated in the Udhamsingh Nagar district;

(b) the number of villages and persons rehabilitated so far in Rudraprayag district also; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Further necessary action in this regard is to be taken by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and they have been suitably advised.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.